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**Au pays de l'or noir. Para, Amazonas, Matto Grosso.** Par Paul Walle. 244 pp., 60 Views from Photographs and 3 Maps. E. Guilmoto, Paris. No date. Frs. 4.50.

An interesting and complete account of the rubber industry in the valley of the Amazon, including the areas of production, the types of rubber forming trees, the methods of gathering and treating the gum and the statistics of rubber trade in the region.

The earlier part of the volume includes a description of the geography of Pará, a glowing account of the climate of the Amazon region, grazing in the Amazon country and an account of a voyage up the Amazon, including descriptions of the cities and towns which may be seen from the steamer. The remaining seven chapters are devoted entirely to the rubber industry.

One is struck by the author's emphasis of the healthfulness of the Amazonian climate, which seems to be borne out by the comparative statistics of mortality. These show that the death rate here is 28.75 per thousand, which is less than half that at Bombay and slightly less than that at St. Petersburg.

Grazing in the natural grassy areas and in fenced farms is developing rapidly and herds of cattle, zebus and horses are numerous and increasing. In some cases modern systems of breeding are being introduced and the milk-producing ability of the cattle is being rapidly increased. The industry seems to thrive in spite of the alligators and jaguars, and the cattle diseases which at times produce enormous destruction.

In the chapters on rubber production, the character and value of the different rubber-producing trees are considered in detail and the palm given to the "King of all rubber trees," the *Hevea brasiliensis*. Brazil to-day produces more than 65 per cent. of the rubber of the world, and vast areas of rubber culture are as yet unexploited. Particularly interesting is the account of the development of Acre which, only a few years ago, was in the public eye because of the attempts to make this region an independent country. Brazil secured this country by treaty and by paying an indemnity of £2,000,000 sterling. Already this region has been of great value to Brazil and has more than paid for itself from the profits of its rubber.

The author devotes one chapter to a comparison of the value of Amazonian rubber with Asiatic rubber and shows that the former is generally considered by the rubber brokers as more elastic and strong. This is largely due, it is supposed, to differences in the method of rough curing of the rubber, and the author believes that the difference in production in Brazil's favor is to increase as the years go on.

The volume is well written and well illustrated and gives an excellent account of the rubber industry in the Amazon country up to the end of the year 1908. It forms an excellent source of information and is a distinct, authoritative addition to our rational volumes on commercial geography. R. E. DODGE.

**The Geology and Scenery of the Grampians and the Valley of Strathmore.** By Peter Macnair. Two Vols. Vol. I, xiv and 195 pp.; Vol. II, xii and 199 pp.; Bibliography, Index and many Photographs, Diagrams and Maps. James MacLehose & Sons, Glasgow, 1908.

The geological history of the Grampian Hills of Scotland and the Midland Valley or "Lowlands" south of them, as set forth in this two-volume work, may